

Reliance Hook and Ladder Fire Company Receives Assistance to Firefighters Grant

June 16, 2010

Media, PA -- Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) is pleased to announce that the Reliance Hook and Ladder Fire Company of Upper Chichester has been awarded \$115,385 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to purchase necessary equipment, including a mobile fill station, a thermal imaging device, a gear washer, portable radios, and extrication equipment. The fire company was also approved to purchase five sets of firefighting gear. This grant is part of the 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program by FEMA under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

“I am very proud of the members of the Reliance Hook and Ladder Fire Company,” said Congressman Sestak. “The company was one of just eleven stations in Pennsylvania to receive this funding, which will help increase the safety of the residents of Upper Chichester and the surrounding communities. I would like to specifically commend Chief Jim Smith and President Steve Bender for their diligence throughout the application process. This award is a testament to their hard work and dedication.”

In operation for more than 75 years, Reliance Hook and Ladder Fire Company is part of the Upper Chichester Fire Department. The department is made up of three volunteer fire companies, each station operating with its own budget. Reliance Fire Company serves as the truck company for Upper Chichester Township, but also provides other services to the community. The company is solely comprised of volunteers.

Since taking office in January 2007, Congressman Sestak has been an active supporter of both professional and volunteer firefighters, and is a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. He has emphasized the importance of properly funding first responder grant programs, which received \$3.5 billion in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010. The legislation includes \$420 million for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) to help local fire departments with equipment and staffing needs. He also submitted several fire company projects for federal appropriation funding. He has hosted a number of grants seminars to assist organizations, such as the Reliance Fire Company, with finding funding. These sessions included an overview of the appropriations process and discussion on the various state and federal resources available.

Additionally, the Congressman's office has compiled the Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District Federal and State Grants & Resources Directory, which can be found online at http://sestak.house.gov/images/stories/federal_state_grants_resource_directory2010_ec31.pdf. The directory is intended as a starting point for those seeking project funding.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, the Congressman was the first Director of Deep Blue, the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the Global War

on Terrorism. He served as President Clintons Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.